

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1872.

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Report for the Year 1895.

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BEING THE  
TWENTY-FIRST  
ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE  
TROWBRIDGE  
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

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PRESENTED TO THE  
Trowbridge Urban District Council

BY  
R. T. RICHARDSON,  
F.Br. Inst. P. H.

*Medical Officer of Health of the Trowbridge  
Urban Sanitary Authority.*



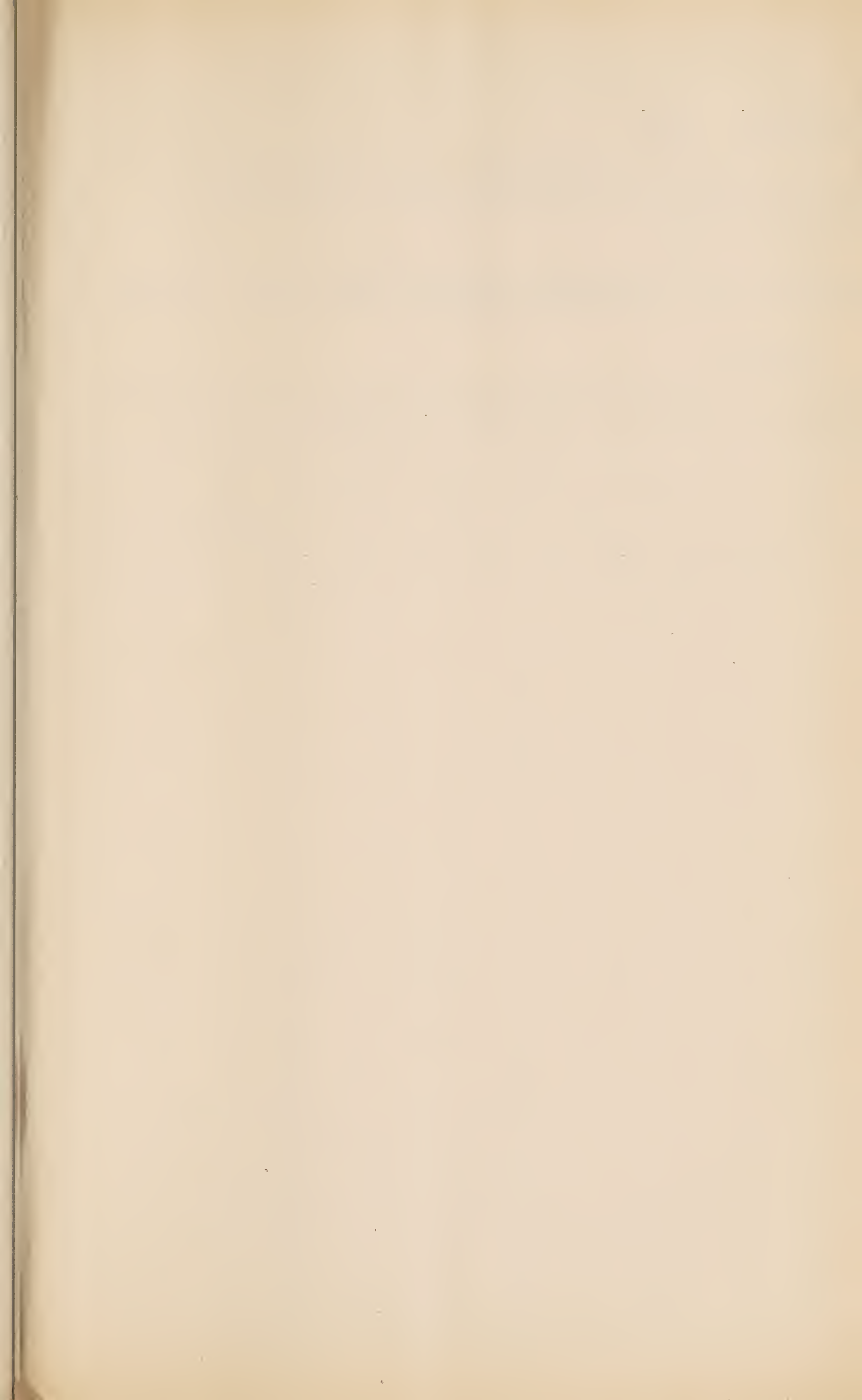




TABLE OF  
DEATHS, arranged as to their CAUSES and AGES,  
occurring in the

Urban District Council District of Trowbridge, for the Year  
1895.

Name of Disease.	Sex Totals.		Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages.													TOTAL.
	Males.	Females.	Under 1 Year.		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 65.		65 and upwards			
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
GROUP 1.—ZYMOTIC DISEASES :—																
Diarrhœa ...	1	2	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
Whooping Cough ...	...	3	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	
Total ...	1	5														
GROUP 2.—SEPTIC DISEASES :—																
Puerperal Fever ...	...	1	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	...	...	1	
Septicæmia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Muco-Enteritis, Septicæmia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Total ...	2	1														
GROUP 3.—WASTING DISEASES :—																
Atrophy ...	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Mesenteric Disease ...	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Marasmus ...	2	...	2	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
Phthisis ...	6	4	...	...	..	..	..	..	1	2	5	2	...	...	10	
Tabes Mesenterica ...	3	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	4	
General Tuberculosis ...	...	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	1	
Total ..	12	8														
GROUP 4.—DISEASES WHERE NUTRITION IS INCREASED :—																
CARCINOMATA, &c.	...	2	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	
Cancer of Pylorus ...	...	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	
Malignant Disease of Breast ...	...	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	
Abdominal Tumour ...	...	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	
Cancer of Uterus ...	...	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	
Malignant Disease of Scapula ...	1	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	
Scirrhus ...	...	1	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	...	...	...	1	
Cancer of Breast ...	...	1	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	1	...	1	
Total ...	1	7														
GROUP 5.—NERVOUS SYSTEM :—																
Cerebral Meningitis ...	1	1	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Apoplexy ...	2	1	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	
Spinal Disease ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Paraplegia ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Tubercular Meningitis ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Convulsions (Teething) ...	1	...	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Congestion of Brain ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Spinal Sclerosis ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Paralysis ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Softening of Brain ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Chronic Hydrocephalus ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Sanguineous Apoplexy ...	...	2	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Acute Encephalitis ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Paralysis Agitans ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Total ...	10	9														
GROUP 6.—CIRCULATORY SYSTEM :—																
Heart Disease ...	11	8	...	...	1	..	...	...	..	...	4	4	6	4	19	
Total ...	11	8														
GROUP 7.—ORGANS OF LOCOMOTION :—																
Acute Rheumatism ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Gout ...	1	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Total ...	1	1														
GROUP 8.—VASCULAR ORGANS :—																
Addison's Disease ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Myxœdema ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Disease of Spleen ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Anœmia ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Total ...	1	3														
GROUP 9.—RESPIRATORY ORGANS :—																
Bronchitis ...	5	11	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	7	16	
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	
Pneumonia ...	4	3	3	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Pleuro-Pneumonia ...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	
Capillary Bronchitis ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Congestion of Lungs ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Acute Laryngitis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Pleuritic Effusion ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Bronchial Asthma ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Total ...	15	19														
GROUP 10.—DIGESTIVE ORGANS :—																
Disease of Liver ...	1	3	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	1	1	4	
Chronic Colitis ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	2	
Peritonitis ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Enteritis ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Total ...	2	7														
GROUP 11.—GENITO-URINARY ORGANS :—																
Cystitis ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Chronic Bright's Disease ...	1	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	
Uremia ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Stricture of Urethra ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Total ...	3	2														
GROUP 12.—PARTURITION :—																
Difficult Labour, Craniotomy ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	
Total ...	...	1														
GROUP 13.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES :—																
Debility from Birth ...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Imperforate Anus ...	1	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Premature Birth ...	2	...	2	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Total ...	4	1														
GROUP 14.—INQUESTS :—																
Bronchitis, Syncope ...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	
Pneumonia, found dead when in bed with mother ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Weak Heart, Dropsy ...	2	3	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5	
Asphyxia, found dead ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Erysipelas following neglected wound ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Rupture of Vessel on the Brain ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Convulsions (Teething) ...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Valvular Heart Disease, Syncope ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	
Crushed Foot by a Railway Truck, Gangrene ..	1	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Epileptic Convulsions, caused by lead poisoning ...	1	...	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Fracture of Skull, by being knocked down by a Bicycle ...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Bronchial Catarrh ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Fatty and Dilated Heart, Syncope ..	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...								



To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

Urban District Council of Trowbridge.



GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Third Annual Report on the Sanitary condition and Public Health of the District.

The approximate population of the district to the middle of 1895 estimated by *Farr's* method is 11,800 ; that at the last census, 1891 being 11,717.

The water supply is good ; the source is from the chalk hills at Upton Scuddamore, near Warminster. The amount used per head per diem is about 17 gallons. The supply is constant.

The system of sewerage adopted in the water carriage system, and the sewage for the most part after passing through the main sewer is discharged into the river Biss.

There is still a large number of W.C.'s without water for flushing. The resolution however passed by the Council in August last, viz :—“ That all Owners or Occupiers of premises which are situate within the district, must previous



to the 24th day of June, 1896, provide a sufficient supply of water to each water closet connected with their house," will I trust prove salutary.

The refuse is collected by the Sanitary Authority's scavenger twice a week and deposited in various parts of the district. The practice of depositing the refuse in the vicinity of populous parts of the town has been discontinued.

The condition of the homes of Working Classes is fairly good ; many new houses of a better class have been built, consequently many of the older ones have become uninhabited. During my last quarterly inspection of the district, in company with the Inspector of Nuisances, I found the latter to be particularly the case in most of the courts, the houses here being unoccupied.

I represented to your Council four houses in Shail's Lane, Conigre, as unfit for human habitation, which will be dealt with during the next year.

The chief industries are—The manufacture of cloth, brewing, iron foundry and engineering, mattress making, etc., etc. I have found no particular injurious effect upon the health of the work-people from working at these industries.

The Biss is the only stream passing through the district. It is sluggish and winding in its course. It is rendered unsightly by the chemicals used in the dyeing of the cloth being discharged into it. This takes place in its course through the town.

It is polluted by nearly the whole of the sewage being discharged into it. This takes place outside the town, about one hundred yards away from the inhabitants, in a north-westerly direction, many houses having been built in the Bradford road, and building is still in progress in this direction.

A Sub-Committee of the late Board visited various Works of Sewage Disposal in June, 1894, and reported the result :—"The Committee have been impressed with the

great difficulty and complexity of the matter to be dealt with even where suitable land is obtainable, whilst in the case of Trowbridge, where the nature of the soil, the natural gradient of the land, and the smallness of the stream are to be taken into consideration, the problem is surrounded with unusual difficulties." Schemes for the disposal of the town sewage are now under consideration by the Council, and steps are being taken for the purchase of such land as is necessary for this object.

There is practically only one Burial Ground, viz :— The Cemetery, which is away from the thickly-populated part of the town, and is not over-crowded by any means. The Trinity Church yard is full, and it is only in exceptional cases that a burial takes place there.

The slaughter-houses, 12 in number, have been inspected by me, and are kept in a satisfactory condition. There is, however, room for improvement in the keeping of the middens in connection with the above.

The bake-houses, 26 in number, have also been inspected by me, and they, too, are kept in a cleanly and satisfactory manner. All are above ground, no drain or any nuisance whatever being connected with them.

The common lodging-houses, 3 in number, have also been inspected by me, and have generally given satisfaction.

The dairies, milkshops, and cow-sheds have been inspected, and have given satisfaction.

There have been no new bye-laws adopted during the year relating to sanitary work.

The district has been inspected by me once a Quarter, accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector, with the result that notices have been served to remedy any nuisance existing. The courts in the district have also been frequently inspected by me. The sanitary improvements effected during the year have been numerous, such as ventilating shafts to houses, new pans to closets where required, water laid on to houses, etc., for which I must refer your Board to the Surveyor's Annual Report.



The sanitary arrangements of the several public elementary Schools have been inspected and have generally given satisfaction; where found necessary, notices have been served to remedy nuisances existing. Cisterns have been fixed at some expense in most of the Schools for flushing the closets automatically, but I am sorry to say this improvement in Sanitation is not carried out.

The action taken to prevent the spread of Infectious Diseases has been the following, viz:—As soon as any infectious disease is notified to me, I visit the house and see that the case is isolated. I leave printed instructions, issued by the late Board, for the management of these cases. With regard to Measles and Whooping Cough, these not being notifiable diseases, I have done nothing to prevent their spreading. In fact, it is impossible for me to tell how many cases there are or have been in the district. I have not recommended Closure of the Schools. The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital is the same as that set forth in my report of last year. One case of Scarlet Fever has been treated in Hospital during the year.

The several Infectious Diseases have occurred in the District as follows:—Epidemic Influenza was very prevalent throughout January, February, and March, but was of a much milder type than preceding years, no deaths resulting directly from this disease; but with the severity of the weather during these three months, no doubt it indirectly helped to swell the high death-rate by predisposing the bronchial organs to disease.

Whooping Cough prevailed during April and May causing three deaths, being one-half of the Zymotic Diseases.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during the year, very mild in character. They were so widely distributed, that it was impossible to trace the source of infection.

There were 14 Cases of Erysipelas, one fatal. Most of the cases were very mild in character. This fatal case followed a neglected wound.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified, none fatal. The unsanitary conditions connected with these cases were as follows:—



*1st Case.*—Defective drainage allowing sewer air to enter the house.

*2nd Case.*—Four traps near back door all defective allowing the escape of sewer air.

*3rd Case.*—Cesspit not emptied for some years, no vent-pipe to W.C. nearest cesspit; no doubt, this case also arose from escape of gas into the dwelling.

These cases occurred immediately after a spell of dry weather, when the air in the sewer was disturbed by the atmospheric pressure in the sewers; had there been sufficient outlets for the escape of the poisonous gases away from the dwellings, no doubt these cases would not have occurred.

There was one case of Typhoid Fever, not fatal, but none the less severe in character. This case arose from the drain to thirteen houses having become completely blocked, giving rise to bad smells, there being no flushing apparatus to the W.C.'s

One case of Puerperal Fever was notified which proved fatal.

Four wells have been closed during the year, the water on analysis being found contaminated with decomposing nitrogenous organic matters, and the oxidized products of such decomposition, proceeding from infiltration of sewage and therefore quite unfit for any domestic use whatever. The Water Company's Water has been laid on to the houses previously supplied from these wells.

The disease such as Cancer shows a slight decrease, 8 cases compared with 10 in 1894.

On the other hand Phthisis has increased, 10 cases compared with 6 in 1894. Meteorological phenomena having no doubt a large share in this increase.

The Sanitary requirements for the district are ventilation to house drains and soil pipes, pans to W. C.'s of a more modern design, such as the short Hopper or Flush-

down closet, in place of the old-fashioned long Hopper closet which is always difficult to keep clean. All W.C.'s should be supplied with flushing cisterns in order to properly cleanse the pan. Also the great want of a Mortuary for the District.

If the Council could see its way clear to provide a Pleasure Ground for the Trinity end of the Town; it would not only enhance the public health, but would also be the means of keeping the children from playing in the streets, where they are liable to be knocked down and run over by passing vehicles.

NAME OF LOCALITY.	New Cases of Sickness of Persons belonging to the District distinguishing those in children under 5 years of age.							
		Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Peurperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
The Urban District Council of Trowbridge Sanitary District.	Under 5	2				1	?	2*
	5 upwards	2	3	1	1*	13†		1*
								Total

† One Died.      \* Died.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year were 261, viz :—112 males and 149 females, being a birth-rate of 22·1 per 1,000.

The number of deaths registered during the same period were 171, viz :—83 males and 88 females, being a death-rate of 14·5 per 1,000, but as one of these was of a person not belonging to the district, the corrected death-rate will be 14·4 per 1,000.

The deaths amongst children under one year were 32 (9 in excess of last year), a death-rate of 2·7 per 1,000, being 18·7 per cent. of the whole number, and 12·2 per cent of the births.

The deaths in group 1, viz :—Zymotic Disease, were 6, (a decrease of one of last year), being a death-rate of 0·5 per 1,000, or 3·5 per cent. of the deaths.

The deaths in group 3, Wasting Diseases, were 22, (an excess of ten of last year), being a death-rate of 1·8 per 1,000, or 12·9 of the deaths.

There were 2 births less, and 42 deaths more during 1895, than in 1894; the excess in the number of deaths can somewhat be accounted for by the unusual severe weather of the first quarter of the year, this extreme and continued cold taxing the vitality particularly of the infants and the aged.

The ages at death varied from 1 hour to 95 years. There were 70 deaths over 60 years of age; a death-rate of 5·9 per 1000 (41·1 per cent. of the whole number), including 20 between 60—70; 29 between 70—80; 19 between



80—90 ; 2 between 90—100 years of age. Below is a table summarising the chief points of the year's vital statistics :—

Birth-rate	...	...	22·1	per 1,000
Death-rate	...	...	14·4	„ „
Zymotic death-rate	...	...	0·5	„ „
Death-rate among children				
under one	...	...	2·7	„ „
Proportion of deaths under				
one to 1,000 births	...	...	122·6	„ „
Death-rate at 60 and upwards			5·9	„ „

There were 18 inquests held during the year.

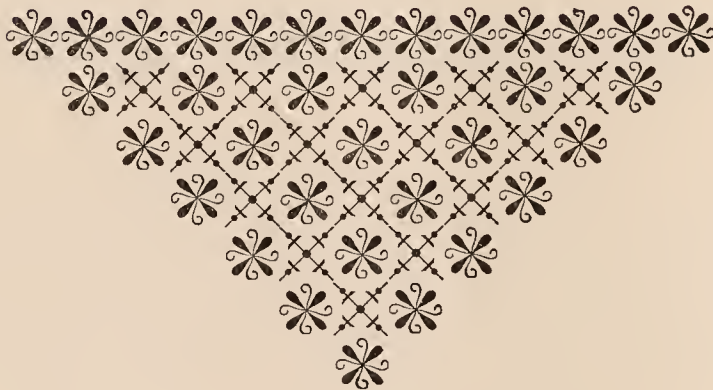
Attached to my Report is a table of deaths giving the different causes and ages at death, and a table of new cases of infectious sickness.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. T. RICHARDSON,

F.Br., Inst. P.H., M.O.H.





To the Chairman and Members

OF THE

*Trowbridge Urban District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Thirteenth Annual Report as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector of the Urban District of Trowbridge.

The following table sets forth the particulars as to the work done and nuisances abated during the year 1895 :—

Complaints received	...	...	...	6
Cottages inspected...	...	...	...	10
Lodging Houses inspected	...	...	...	3
Slaughterhouses inspected	...	...	...	12
Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	...	...	...	8
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	8
Houses erected or rebuilt for which certificates were granted	...	...	...	6
Certificates granted	...	...	...	6
Improved supplies of Water...	...	...	...	14
Wells closed	...	...	...	4
Houses connected with sewers	...	...	...	8
Premises newly connected with water mains				72
Yards, Privies, W.C.'s, Drains, and Slop Sinks repaired and improved	...	...	...	54

Nuisances from Animals, or Animals improperly kept, also from Slaughterhouses...	...	23
Houses closed	...	1
Overcrowding of dwellinghouse	...	2
Samples of Water taken for analysis	...	4
Nuisances reported or detected	...	92
Nuisances abated	...	92
Notices served	...	90
Dangerous Buildings or Structures	...	6

I have made periodical inspections of the various Courts, Slaughterhouses, Common Lodging Houses, etc., situated within the District and have served the necessary notices requiring the abatement of Nuisances where they have been found to exist, and have seen that such Nuisances have been abated.

The Council have now under their consideration two schemes for the disposal of the Town Sewage, one known as the Low Level, and the other as the High Level Scheme ; unfortunately in both Schemes the Sewage will have to be pumped. Negotiations are now proceeding for obtaining the price of the land that will be required.

IMPROVEMENTS.—Owing to the County Council deferring the question of improvements on the Main Roads, these have not been so numerous as they would otherwise have been ; they consist of the Newtown improvement, a new foot-path at Hilperton Marsh, the widening of Wingfield Road by Mr. G. Lansdown's house, and the widening of the public footpath opposite the Police Station.

BYTHESEA ESTATE.—The New Street through this Estate has been constructed but it is not yet opened to the Public.

MARKET.—A wider and more commodious entrance has been made to the Market Paddock.

PLEASURE GROUNDS.—A Band Stand and Drinking Fountain has been presented to the Pleasure Grounds.

REPAIRS TO PRIVATE STREETS.—Gladstone Road and Avenue Road have been Kirbed, Paved, and made up.



SEWERAGE.—The main Outfall Sewer from the Outfall under Cockhill Farm to Messrs. Mackays' Factory has been cleaned out.

The Building trade still remains very quiet and the number of plans passed are again less than the previous year, the number being as follows:—

Dwelling Houses and Business Premises.....	13
Additions, Alterations, and Small Erections...	16
	—
Total	29

Six new houses have been passed for occupation as compared with 18 in the previous year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H STANLEY, A.M.I.C.E.

Town Hall,  
Trowbridge,  
January, 1896.

